

Media release

Monday, 20 October 2014

ANMF (SA Branch) releases its prescription for change to SA's health system

A raft of key recommendations on how to reform the state's health system will be released this morning by the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (SA Branch).

The ANMF (SA Branch) paper *A Prescription for Change – Opportunities to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the South Australian Health System* contains over 30 recommendations on how to improve the system overall.

ANMF (SA Branch) CEO/Secretary Adj Assoc Professor Elizabeth Dabars said the paper has been developed following dialogue with members, and sets out measures that can be put in place across all parts of the health system to ensure that the community will receive appropriate when the need arises.

“Our fictitious Spencer family's stories and pathways illustrate the need for change and add an important human side that is so often missing from this debate,” Ms Dabars.

“Indeed, I am sure that we all have an uncle or aunt, a brother or sister, or a mother or father who at some stage have experienced similar issues when receiving care, or even failed to receive appropriate care as a result of the current problems in our system.”

The paper has been developed partly in response to Federal Government's budget cuts, which will tear out \$650 million from the state's health budget over the next four years.

“While as an organisation we will continue to fight these short-sighted cuts, we know that in all likelihood the Federal Government will not provide the level of funding previously promised for South Australian hospitals and patients,” Ms Dabars said.

“For too long the debate has been around what cuts can or should be made where. We have consistently argued that the debate should have always been, and should now certainly be, about the positive reform of the health system.”

“This paper recommends a raft of positive reforms that we can and should implement in order to ensure the delivery of high quality, effective and efficient patient care.”

Today's release of the paper follows the release of the State Government's 'Transforming Health' paper last Friday.